



## City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

**MARY SHEFFIELD**  
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
DISTRICT 5

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Legislative Policy Division (LPD)  
**FROM:** Mary Sheffield, President, Detroit City Council  
**DATE:** February 4, 2024  
**RE:** Request to Draft Resolution Opposing the Demolition of the Belle Isle Boathouse

The Belle Isle Boathouse, nestled within the scenic Belle Isle Park, stands as a cherished landmark and a symbol of Detroit's rich history and cultural heritage. Serving as both a recreational hub and a vital participant in educational programs and community events, the boathouse has played a pivotal role in fostering a sense of unity among Detroiters. Its historical, cultural, and educational value is crucial for both citizens of Detroit and visitors, making its preservation essential for community enrichment and ensuring that future generations can appreciate this tangible piece of Detroit's history.

Recently, my office learned of the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) proposal to utilize American Rescue Plan Act funds (ARPA) for the demolition of the boathouse. The Historic Designation Advisory Board (HDAB), recognizing the historical importance of the boathouse, has expressed concerns about the irreversible loss that would occur if such demolition proceeded. We stand united with the HDAB in their steadfast opposition to the proposed demolition of the Belle Isle Boathouse.

Therefore, given the collective sentiment opposing the demolition, my office requests LPD to draft a resolution formally expressing our opposition to the proposed destruction of the Belle Isle Boathouse. The resolution should underscore its historical and educational significance, aligning with the stance of the HDAB. Please contact Caryn Shannon from my office at [caryn.shannon@detroitmi.gov](mailto:caryn.shannon@detroitmi.gov) if you have any questions.

Cc: Honorable Colleagues  
City Clerk